



March 10, 2026

John Wilson, President and CEO  
Kansas Action for Children  
Proponent Written-Only Testimony on SB 513  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chairperson Billinger and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 513, an important step towards modernizing the Kansas Child Care Assistance Program (also known as the Child Care Subsidy Program) by transitioning the state toward direct-to-provider subsidy payments.

Recently, the state has worked to improve child care subsidy eligibility and increase provider reimbursement rates. These were welcomed changes that helped both parents and providers. SB513 represents the natural next step to ensure there are enough options for parents to use their subsidy.

SB 513 is about making the system easier to use. For many providers, the current challenges of verifying eligibility and collecting payments can be a deterrent to participation. **Indeed, 71% of providers have indicated they would be more likely to participate in the subsidy program if they could receive payments directly from the state, according to a recent study by United Methodist Health Ministries Fund.**

A modernized system with features like a dedicated provider portal, integration with other state systems, and program monitoring tools would allow early childhood educators to focus more on children and less on administrative hurdles. It ensures that families can access care more quickly, without the stress of navigating complex payment handoffs.

By shifting to direct-to-provider payments, Kansas can strengthen its child care workforce and ensure more children can access the early learning experiences they need to thrive. I respectfully ask the Committee to support SB 513. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [john@kac.org](mailto:john@kac.org).

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***About Kansas Action for Children***

Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.